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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany/Russian Satellites

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SUBJECT Freight Charges in Eastern Europe

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. Until approximately March 1952, Eastern forwarding agents were permitted to pay one another freight charges for traffic over Eastern territory in U.S. dollars and/or Swiss francs. Since this period, they have been required to render an account to one another for all freight charges in regular clearing statements based on the gold ruble.
2. These freight charges depend on the type of merchandise and its ultimate destination. For example, in the case of pipes being shipped through Poland from Czechoslovakia to East Germany, payment of the following freight charges is required:  
 15 zlotys per 100 kg. for seamless pipes  
 11 zlotys per 100 kg. for welded pipes  
 9 zlotys per 100 kg. for cast iron pipes.

On the other hand, if the ultimate destination of the pipes is the USSR, the freight charges would be only 5.70 zlotys per 100 kg., irrespective of the type.

3. Recently [ ] however; the DDR railroads, when receiving boiler pipes from Hungary via Vienna, Czechoslovakia and Poland, requested the supplier to pay the freight charges in dollars, subsequently reimbursing him in Swiss francs, and the railroads did not wish these shipments to figure in the gold ruble clearing accounts of the eastern forwarding agents concerned.

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